

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

VIA: David B. Humpton, City Manager

FROM: Frederick J. Felton, Assistant City Manager

DATE: November 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislative Priorities

Based on informal discussions with the Mayor and individual Council members and the Senior Leadership Team, staff is recommending that the Mayor and City Council adopt the following as our initial legislative priorities for the 2007 General Assembly Legislative Session:

At this point, I am recommending the following:

**Funding**

- 1) A bond bill for City Capital project(s).
- 2) Increased State Aid for Municipal Police Protection. Please note that this is a Maryland Municipal League (MML) priority.

**Legislation**

- 1) A local bill establishing that properties annexed into the City of Gaithersburg or City of Rockville since 1965 are not subject to the Metropolitan District Tax. Staff recommends that we work closely with the City of Rockville on this issue. (Please note that local bills need to be filed by November 13, 2006)
- 2) A statewide enabling bill that would let cities charge a 1% hotel tax earmarked for Public Safety. Staff suggests that the City try to get the ten largest Maryland cities to also pursue this legislation to gain statewide support.
- 3) A statewide enabling bill that would allow municipalities to charge development excise taxes on new construction. Please note that the City of Rockville has asked us to support this legislation and it appears that the Montgomery County Chapter of MML is also going to endorse this as a legislative priority.
- 4) Municipal Opt-Out Electrical Aggregation. Please note that this is a MML priority.

November 2, 2006

Page 2

### **Transportation**

- 1) Continue to support the Corridor Cities Transitway, and urge the Department of Transportation to break this project out of the 15-270 corridor study and create a new line item in the Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP) for this project in either the FY08 or FY09 budget.
- 2) Additional engineering funding for the Watkins Mill Road Interchange. The draft CTP calls for \$800,000 in FY08, but both the County and the City would like to see a higher level of funding given that the County and the City have developed a funding mechanism which will allow for construction of all six lanes of Watkins Mill Road Extended in the next two years.

I will be seeking guidance on the legislative priorities during the November 6, 2006 Mayor and City Council meeting. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please let me know.

ff/ms